The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service aims to keep the membership informed minutely of all other labor matters occurring in the industrial, legislative and political fields, and such other information as will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

Much danger makes hearts more resolute.—Marsten.

WHOLE NO. 942. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 1929. FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 19, NO. 7.

EDITORS ARE CAUGHT IN INJUNCTION TRAP

The president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors rightfully denounced a Minnesota law which empowers equity judges to padlock any newspaper in that State they believe prints "malicious, scandalous or defamatory matter."

The law has been taken advantage of by Minneapolis politicians and a newspaper in that city was ordered to cease publication. The editors charge a violation of constitutional guarantees.

At the annual convention of these editors in Washington, the president said:

"If the publication were guilty of peddling slander and libel, the regular channels for the punishment of such liberties of journalism were available and could have met the situation effectively."

In the Minneapolis case the legislature of that State overturned government by law and gave jurisdiction to equity judges, who act as their conscience dictates.

In federal labor injunction cases Congress gave jurisdiction to equity courts—section 4 of the Sherman anti-trust act—to enforce this statute against any combination this court believes interferes with interstate commerce.

The Duplex, Truax, Granite City and Bedford cut stone decisions are samples of the courts' guessing when workers are involved.

In the Bedford decision workers are actually ordered to labor against their will.

The Federal equity judge is only guided by his conscience, just as are all other equity courts. The defendant has no protection that is assured him in a court of law.

If newspaper editors understood the difference between law and equity they would protest against even the most humble citizen being placed at the mercy of equity when he is charged with violating law.

It now is a common practice for equity to supersede courts of law and the editors have awakened—another case of locking the barn after the horse has disappeared.

It is unwise to "play favorites" when principle is involved. For 40 years organized labor has demanded that the equity process should not be used when the plaintiff has a remedy at law. The average editor stood aloof from this fight. He often charged the workers with seeking special privileges.

The editors now find they are victims of the equity process and they ask that government by law be re-established.

It would be interesting to know how they distinguish between their protest and the same wrong inflicted on workers.

HIGH-WAGE STATE LEADS; CHEAP WAGE CRY EXPOSED

New York, April 27.—The claim that high wages is injurious to business was refuted by economists at the New York State-Wide Economic Conference.

The economists proved organized labor's contention that high wages and high production move together.

"Despite the relatively high earnings of New York factory workers," said Dr. Sumner H. Slichter, professor of economics, Cornell University, "New York manufacturers paid out no larger a percentage of their gross income in the form of wages than did manufacturers of other States. In fact, the amount was less. While wages constituted 17.1 per cent of the value of the output of New York factories in 1927, the percentage for the country as a whole was 17.2 per cent.

"Even in the South Atlantic States, where factory workers earn one-third less than in New York State, wages constituted a larger proportion of the gross income of factories than New York."

Dr. Slichter said that New York State is a conspicuous illustration of the fact that high wages does not necessarily mean high labor costs.

"Not only have high wages in New York not meant high labor costs," he said, "but they have apparently not impeded the growth of industry, because manufacturing in New York has been growing more rapidly than in the country as a whole.

"The factory output of the United States increased about 1 per cent in value between 1919 and 1927, whereas that of New York State increased about 6 per cent."

Miss Frances Perkins, New York State Industrial Commissioner of Labor, presented statistics to uphold Dr. Slichter's position.

Between 1923 and 1927, said George Soule of the Labor Bureau, Inc., the value of manufactured products in New York State grew more than in the United States as a whole and more than in four of the six States which the conference board picked as chief competitors of New York State.

"YELLOW DOG" PLAN LOSES IN WISCONSIN

Madison, Wis., April 27.—The Wisconsin Assembly has outlawed the "yellow dog" contract. The Wisconsin Federation of Labor led the fight against this one-sided proposal that workers are compelled to accept before they are employed.

The unionists were opposed by every force that anti-union influences could muster. The workers are confident they will also win in the Senate.

LIFE CONTROLLED IN ITALY

Mussolini has made Italy an ideal Socialistic state that outlaws strikes, suppresses free speech, arranges how the people shall vote for puppet lawmakers and takes charge of working conditions and production.

Every person engaged in industry, commerce, trades, farming and the arts and crafts must join an employers' syndicate, a Fascist "union" or other organization, all controlled by the government. Domestic servants, alone, are exempt from membership in a huge machine that will be directed by the state.

Labor courts decide disputes between workers and employes. Strikes are a criminal offense.

This nation-wide scheme opens a wide field for the intelligentsia who will direct the workers and order their lives. This element will not forgive American labor's unionists for daring to refuse to take orders from above, and for insisting on the American ideal that the individual, not the state, is supreme.

Mussolini is credited with evolving the Italian plan. This is logical, as the dictator was at one time a flaming revolutionist who favored the same kind of control, that should be enforced by the working class.

He has, however, established his principle under another name. But in this instance, as with his former belief, the rights of the individual are subordinate to the state.

When workers understand these contradictory principles, the revolutionist and his pale pink comrade will be ridiculed out of the unions.

LABOR HEAD REFUSES TO QUIT STRIKE AREA

Elizabethton, Tenn., April 27.—Thomas F. McMahon, president United Textile Workers, rejected the suggestion that he and other trade union executives leave here "to clarify the situation" between strikers and the Bemberg and Glanzstoff rayon mills.

The suggestion was made by W. C. Boyd, adjutant general, and Sheriff J. W. Moreland.

"If our absence will 'clarify the situation,' why was not that true when these workers were unorganized and appealed to the companies for a redress of grievances before we came here," said Mr. McMahon.

"We have a lawful right to be in Elizabethton. Public officials can be helpful in this controversy if they insist that all parties observe the law and stop kidnaping. We will stay here at the pleasure of employes, regardless of the views of mill managements or public officials."

The workers are engaged in their second strike against the two mills. When the first strike settlement was made, the management promised there would be no discrimination. Later a victimization policy was adopted.

Textile Strikers Not Illiterate; Union Chief Refutes Old Claim

Washington, April 27.—"Textile strikers in the rayon mills of Elizabethton, Tenn., are making industrial and social history," said Thomas F. McMahon, president United Textile Workers of America, on his visit to A. F. of L. headquarters, where he discussed the Southern situation with President Green.

"To understand the Elizabethton affair, one must reject old ideas of the South, and especially of eastern Tennessee," said Mr. McMahon. "These people are not the hill-billies that are pictured in cheap movies and trashy novels. They have high ideals and have strong convictions on fundamental Americanism. To say that they are illiterate is to libel them. Their standard of education is far higher than in many sections of the North.

"Neither is trade unionism unknown, as their mother lodges are found by the members of organized labor who moved out of the cities into that section, and whose early trade union teachings has filtrated into the entire community. These men will never surrender. It is believed that 'an injury to one is the concern of all,' as is shown by their present unity."

President McMahon said that the present policy of the company is its victimization policy. The first strike was adjusted after wages were advanced. Later 90 members of the grievance committee were discharged and 5,500 employes again ceased work.

President McMahon said he called a mass meeting just before leaving Elizabethton for Washington. He referred to suggestions that he and other officials of the United Textile Workers leave that place, and asked the strikers if the plan is acceptable to them.

"They raised the roof with their storm of 'Noes'," said President McMahon. "They insist that they have as much right to secure advice as has the company manager, and they will not weaken that right.

"The company has organized a company 'union,' which includes bosses, chemists and clerks. The business men are understanding the issue, and they are impressed by the solidarity of workers, who trade with them."

Mr. McMahon explained that the Bemberg and Glanzstoff mills are owned by one corporation. The Bemberg mill makes rayon out of cotton waste and other staple cotton. The Glanzstoff mill uses wood fibre. Three other units, each costing $10,000,000, were under construction, but building operations have ceased.

The corporation is at a terrific loss because of the strike.

"The Elizabethton rayon workers are the shock troops of a struggle that is watched all over the South," said the trade unionist. "They will win because they are of the stuff that spells success. That explains why it is being directed by Vice President Kelly of the United Textile Workers."

The governor of Tennessee has appointed President Berry of the International Printing Pressmen's and Assistants' Union as the representative to be helpful in securing an adjustment. The pressmen's headquarters, at Pressmen's Home, is near the strike scene.

HOPE FOR NAVY CHECK RAISED BY UNCLE SAM

Washington, April 27.—The American proposal at Geneva for navy limitation has increased hope that a program may be agreed on at the Preparatory Disarmament Conference.

If the conference adopts a plan this will be the basis for a world-wide conference, that may make the plan effective.

Differences between nations are highly technical because of geographical locations, trade routes and coaling stations.

The United States now announces that it will give consideration to the French proposal that the total tonnage of warships be reduced, and that each nation be free to decide what class the reduction shall apply to. This would permit a nation to concentrate, for instance, on small cruisers or submarines.

England announces that it will also give consideration to the French proposal. The United States and Great Britain were formerly opposed to the French theory.

MOVE TO IMPEACH WISCONSIN JUDGE

Madison, Wis., April 27.—Circuit Judge Belden of Racine, who aided the Allen-A Company of Kenosha in its war against union hosiery workers, may be impeached by the State Legislature. The resolution was almost unanimously passed by the House and the Senate is expected to take similar action.

The original demand was connected with the Kenosha strike and followed the granting of a writ by the court in the use of $10,000 by the Kenosha grand jury to investigate "lawlessness" in the Allen-A strike. The labor unions charged that the money was wanted for a drive against them.

State Senator Herman J. Severson of Iola read a list of expenditures in a past grand jury inquiry at Kenosha in which private detectives submitted bills for hundreds of dollars' worth of liquor and on one item with the word "prostitute." These documents had been passed on by Judge Belden.

In the new charges Judge Belden is accused of having received $20,000 from the Simmons Company of Kenosha and never paid it. Some time after this loan, it is alleged, Judge Belden decided a case in favor of the company involving many thousand dollars.

Income tax records of the Simmons Company were cited to show the $20,000 debt, and that notes dated 1926 were written off by the company as uncollectible.

"HOLDING" COMPANIES LATEST GOUGING PLAN

New York, April 27.—"The holding company menace dominates the utility field and should be destroyed," said Henry Ward Beer, president of the Federal Bar Association, to a group of churchmen in this city.

The attorney urged a curb on profits of these corporations. "No holding company," he said, "quite so accurately illustrates the 'milking of the public' as the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, a holding company which monopolizes and controls more than 85 per cent of all the telephone companies in this country.

"No higher powered propaganda aces are on any corporation payroll in America than those which represent the telephone trust. Every time you write the president of the telephone trust and has our President make glowing tribute to its wonderful achievements. Then follows the mulcting charge for service, as illustrated by its own admission."

Mr. Beer questioned the right of "the telephone monopoly to charge 15 cents to transmit your voice from the Bronx (a section of New York City) to Coney Island when the Supreme Court of the United States is satisfied that a ride on a train for the same distance is not worth more than 5 cents."

MACHINE INCREASES OLD-AGE DEPENDENCY

New York, April 27.—Labor-displacing machinery is increasing old-age dependency, said Secretary of Labor Davis in a letter to the National Conference on Old-Age Security.

"Every day," said the cabinet member, "new mechanisms in industry are displacing workers—nearly always the older workers—so that the automatic processes of life tend to increase the thousands caught in later life without the means of even a meager existence.

"We cannot safely tolerate such conditions. It is good business to halt that process which tends to create a permanent class of unemployed and helpless. If we do not grapple with this growing condition, it will tear our prosperity to pieces."

FARMERS URGING DEBENTURE PLAN

Washington, April 27.—The National Grange is urging the debenture plan as a solution for farmers' troubles.

This is offered as a substitute for the equalization fee vetoed by President Coolidge. President Hoover opposes the debenture which has friends in the Senate but none in the House. A debenture is a negotiable paper. If this plan were adopted a farmer, when he exports wheat, would receive a debenture for 42 cents on each bushel. This is one-half of the tariff on wheat.

The debenture would be purchased by brokers, who would sell it to importers of foreign goods. The business men would turn these debentures in to the treasury for payment of tariff charges.

The debenture would have a face value of 21 cents per bushel, but the farmer would receive less than that amount because of brokerage charges and profits in handling this paper.

Opponents of the plan insist that it is a subsidy. The National Grange admits that the debenture plan will lessen the amount of money going into the government's strong box, but the money is taken out of the treasury.

The Hoover plan provides, in effect, that the wheat farmers organize in co-operative associations they will be aided by a Federal farm board, which will loan money to these organizations. The bill is based on voluntary action.

UNIONISM IN SOUTH CAN NOT BE CHECKED

Brevard, N. C., April 27.—Organization of southern textile workers is inevitable, declares the Brevard News in a long editorial on the industrial history of this section.

In the absence of organization the mill owners and the public "might well resign themselves to a series of labor outbursts such as the South has never known," says the editor.

"The textile industry, because of the fool things done by owners, makes fertile field for the spread of communistic propaganda.

"Then we, as a section, have advertised and exploited 'cheap labor' as the enticing bargain argument in getting northern capital in the South and inducing northern mill owners to move here. Now the owners manufacture who came from the North because of our foolish advertising of cheap labor and long hours are having the most trouble in their plants."

The editor asserts that workers will not stand for the "stretch-out," that they will either unite under the A. F. of L. or Moscow. The people of this State, the press and the mill owners themselves ought to encourage organization along legitimate lines, he says.

"The cotton mill owner has had a almighty powerful as he used to be and the cotton mill worker is not as illiterate as he used to be. The public has also changed on these questions, and even the press, once the cotton mill owners' mouthpiece, now makes an effort to tell the facts about conditions and writes editorials that a few years ago would be considered 'labor propaganda.'"

UNORGANIZED MINERS GET WAGE REDUCTION

Pittsburgh, Pa., April 27.—The anti-union Pittsburgh Coal Company reduced wages 7 per cent for 3,000 employes. Wages were also reduced in January, last year. The Carnegie Steel Company and other coal corporations have taken similar action.

President Morrow of the Pittsburgh company blames competition with the anti-union West Virginia field for the wage cut.

The Pittsburgh concern was among the first to violate the Jacksonville agreement, signed with the United Mine Workers. The contract-breakers made the same defense—competition with the anti-union fields of West Virginia and Kentucky.

The organized miners protested that wage reductions were no solution for mining ills and that the low-wage policy would result in cut-throat competition that would reach the starvation point for workers.

The unionized population has been verified. Wage cuts in one field have been met by other reductions by competitors while conditions in the industry becomes more chaotic.

Non-union miners employed by these concerns are being compelled to accept b-d work conditions. Any worker who suggests trade unionism is victimized.

"It is a disgrace to think of a basic industry floundering in the grip of such conditions," said P. T. Fagin, president Pittsburgh district, United Mine Workers.

BIG-TOWN INDUSTRY COSTLY TO PUBLIC

New York, April 27.—Centralized industry in large urban areas is an additional cost to the public, asserted Robert S. Binkerd, business man, in an address to the New York State-Wide Economic Conference.

The speaker said that decentralization in industry is necessary to check the enormous toll on production costs that are traced because of congestion in large cities.

Mr. Binkerd pointed out that it costs about 5 cents a quart to deliver morning milk to New York City consumers. A piano can be shipped from Chicago to New York for $11, he said, but it can hardly be hauled 20 blocks in this city for that sum.

UNION ORGANIZER DEAD

New York, April 27.—Otto Nichols, organizer United Garment Workers, died in this city. He was well known among eastern trade unionists.

EMPLOYMENT CENSUS FAVORED IN CONGRESS

Washington, April 27.—The first study of unemployment in this country will be undertaken by the government if Congress adopts the census bill as amended by the Senate committee on commerce.

The plan was recently submitted to President Hoover by the American Statistical Association. Secretary of Commerce Lamont urged the plan at hearings held by the Senate committee.

"There have been many estimates of the number of unemployed during the last few years but there is nothing definite and there is great need for information on this subject," said Secretary Lamont. "There is a big shift going on constantly on account of men being displaced by machines. What is important to know is what men are unemployed by reason of the increasing use of machines."

OLD-TIME UNIONIST DEAD

Little Rock, Ark., April 27.—L. H. Moore, first secretary of the Arkansas Federation of Labor, died in this city at an advanced age. He served as secretary for 20 years and was associated with the growth of trade unionism in this State and in the passage of much social legislation. He was editor of the Union Labor Bulletin of this city for many years.

MARINE WORKERS GAIN

Cleveland, April 27.—A new union agreement, with increased wages, has been signed by the Great Lakes Towing Company and licensed tugmen, firemen and linesmen. The workers are affiliated to the International Association of Longshoremen.

HOPE FOR NAVY CHECK RAISED BY UNCLE SAM

Washington, April 27.—The American proposal at Geneva for navy limitation has increased hope that a program may be agreed on at the Preparatory Disarmament Conference.

If the conference adopts a plan this will be the basis for a world-wide conference, that may make the plan effective.

Differences between nations are highly technical because of geographical locations, trade routes and coaling stations.

The United States now announces that it will give consideration to the French proposal that the total tonnage of warships be reduced, and that each nation be free to decide what class the reduction shall apply to. This would permit a nation to concentrate, for instance, on small cruisers or submarines.

England announces that it will also give consideration to the French proposal. The United States and Great Britain were formerly opposed to the French theory.

WORKER CASUALTIES CUT

New York, April 27.—Casualties to railway employes have decreased more than 47 per cent since 1923, according to the Committee on Public Relations of Eastern railroads.

RAILROAD SHOP MEN EXPOSE FAKE UNION

Portland, Ore., April 27.—Organized railroad shop employes have launched a trade union drive, and challenge any defender of the company "union" to show where this system has been helpful to workers.

"When has the company 'union' secured an increase in your pay envelope of its own initiative," the unionists ask. "We do not hear of a company 'union' appealing from the decision of the management to a higher tribunal for wage increases.

"Where has the company 'union' established research bureaus, employed expert economists and trained statisticians to examine wage rates and improve work conditions?

"You have no voice in determining the size of your pay envelope. But what is one to expect when the management has a spokesman on each side of the table and where the constitution and by-laws of the company 'union' provide that the management shall be present with the understanding that S. P. & S. Railroad Company will take care of the wages?"

"The hope of railroad employes is in a compact organization. They must strengthen their position to match the growing power of capitalists. If there is to be advancement the wage earner must more than ever be dependent upon the trade unions."

DISTRIBUTION COSTS GREATER THAN OUTPUT

Washington, April 27.—Excessive distribution costs in this country were shown by Senator Brookhart in discussing the farm question before the Women's Political Study Club of this city.

"The farmers receive about nine billion dollars for what they sell, but the consumer pays over 30 billion dollars for it," said Mr. Brookhart.

"Since 1920 farm lands have declined nearly 20 billion dollars while the industrial centers real estate advanced more than that amount. Since 1910 farm bankruptcies increased more than 1,000 per cent while commercial bankruptcies remain about the same."

"JIMMY" HAYS IS DEAD

Detroit, Mich., April 27.—James Hays, for 14 years vice president of the Operative Plasterers and Cement Finishers' International Association, died in this city.

He was an old-school trade unionist. The funeral, held in St. Louis, was attended by scores of veteran organized workers.

ROOFERS RAISE WAGES

Portland, Ore., April 27.—Composition roofers signed a two-year agreement with employers which will receive $10 a day, journeymen $9, and apprentices $6.50. The old rates were $9, $8 and $6.

MACHINISTS' STRIKE MAY GO TO CONGRESS

Washington, April 27.—Tricky maneuvering by delegates to the Federation of Citizens' Association may result in the appeal of the workers in La France Company of Elmira, New York, against organized machinists being thrown into Congress.

This city is governed by three commissioners appointed by the President. These officials refused a hearing to organized machinists who wished to protest against the purchase of fire apparatus from a concern that employs notoriously unskilled labor and whose representatives are involved in bribery of Minneapolis councilmen.

The machinists appealed to the Federation of Citizens' Association, where anti-union influences resorted to parliamentary objections. The meeting adjourned without final action and the machinists will undertake to have committees of the House and Senate grant them hearings. The District Commissioners denied.

SINCLAIR LOSES AGAIN

Washington, April 27.—The United States Supreme Court refused to review its decision confirming a three-months' sentence that Harry F. Sinclair must serve for contempt of court. The only avenues of legal escape now are pardon by President Hoover or commutation of the sentence by Justice Hitz, who imposed it two years ago.

Sinclair was found guilty of refusing to answer questions by a Senate committee that was investigating the Teapot Dome scandals. The conviction means more than the imprisonment of Sinclair—it arms the Senate with a power that was heretofore denied.

COMPENSATION BILL PASSES STATE SENATE

Denver, April 27.—Organized labor won a partial victory in its fight for higher compensation when the State Senate raised the wretchedly low maximum of $12 a week for injured workers to $16. The minimum was raised from $8 to $7.

Mining corporations and other large employing interests hope to defeat the bill in the house.

FAKE COAL-IRON POLICE BILL SIGNED BY GOVERNOR FISHER

Harrisburg, Pa., April 27.—Governor Fisher has signed the Mansfield bill, a fake control of the vicious coal and iron police system that is used to break strikes and intimidate workers.

The state executive made a complete about face from his position of February 15 when he denounced sweeping powers that the coal and iron police will retain by the bill he now approves.

The demand for regulation of these corporation-controlled thugs swept the State when three of them murdered John Barcoski, a miner. He was beaten over the head until he was senseless and his body was trampled upon.

The Mansfield bill was introduced to allay protests. This bill provided that three reputable citizens should testify to the character of applicants for coal and iron police. Each appointee must give a bond of $2,000, wear a uniform and display his badge. The application, however, would remain untouched.

Organized labor protested against these police roaming at will to enforce their thuggery. Representative Mussmanno, who lives in the district where John Barcoski murder was committed, introduced a bill limiting the authority and powers of industrial police to the property of the company which employs them. Both bills passed the legislature.

The workers' fight for control of this private army was supported by churchmen, newspapers and citizens generally.

Governor Fisher was connected with the non-union mine in Indiana county which secured an injunction against striking miners from singing hymns.

VETO STATE MINIMUM LAW

St. Paul, Minn., April 27.—Governor Christianson vetoed the State minimum wage law that would apply to public work. He suggests that the State Industrial Commission be empowered to fix the minimum wage on such contracts.

The scheme would be favored by the anti-union Minnesota Employers' Association.

JOSEPH BINDER PASSES ON

Grand Rapids, Mich., April 27.—Joseph Binder, for 25 years general organizer Pattern Makers' League of North America, died in this city. He was 69.

FIVE-DAY WEEK WON BY NEWARK BUILDERS

Newark, N. J., April 27.—Bricklayers, plumbers and carpenters won the five-day week, effective July 1 when a new agreement also provides for wage increases to be operative October 1. This will make up for the loss of the Saturday half-day pay.

WHY IS MOONEY IN PRISON? ASKS U. S. SENATOR SCHALL

New York, April 27.—"I am convinced that Mooney and Billings are victims of a foul conspiracy of capital," says United States Senator Schall of Minnesota writing on these famous criminal cases in Plain Talk magazine, May issue.

The Senator sketched the main features of the trials and the labor background and the confessed perjuries of underworld witnesses used by the State.

Trial Judge Griffin, ten of the Mooney jurymen who are alive, police officials who were closely connected with the case, and other officials, Senator Schall points out, are all agreed that a frame-up was perpetrated and that the two men should be pardoned.

"The convicted men can not secure a new trial because the perjuries were discovered until after the trials closed.

"The California law provides that appeals in criminal cases shall be based on the record of the trial. As the perjuries were unknown at that time, the record of the cases are regular.

"Nothing will destroy public confidence in our judicial system more surely, or more surely, he said Senator Schall, "than the belief that men can be convicted on framed-up evidence and then be denied redress because they may subscribe to unpopular political doctrines. Such a belief strikes at the very foundation of good government and does more to injure the cause of law and order than could any amount of radical agitation.

"I strongly feel that the conviction and imprisonment of these men is a blot on the escutcheon of American justice and that every lover of fair play in California and demand that he pardon Mooney and Billings or give specific reasons for not so doing."